

## **Background Information**

### ➔ What is the discipline initiative?

The inaugural speech\* of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tom Horne, included eight ideas to achieve academic excellence for Arizona students and the first idea was related to discipline. In his words,

*First, we must restore classroom discipline. When teachers are not supported in disciplining disruptive students, some teachers tend to give up. That has lead to anarchy in some public schools across the country. Other teachers keep trying, but valuable time is diverted from teaching the students who want to learn. Restoring classroom discipline is a necessary precondition to creating a learning atmosphere, to facilitate academic excellence.*

ADE has started working on this idea and is being termed the “discipline initiative”.

### ➔ What is the **definition** of discipline for this initiative?

Discipline is defined as the steps or actions taken by teachers and the administration to enhance student safety, behavior, and academic achievement.

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Marie, J. (1967) The trouble with discipline. *Catholic School Journal*. 67:50-51

*“When teachers are asked to indicate the problem they consider most important in their teaching, discipline is mentioned with greater frequency than any other (including salaries). One reason is that classroom control is a prerequisite to classroom learning. Children and youth who are well-disciplined will direct their interests, efforts, and abilities towards greater achievement. Those who are not disciplined waste their new opportunities, making learning difficult for themselves, for their classmates, and for their teachers”.*

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\* See <http://www.ade.az.gov/administration/superintendent/default.asp> for the inaugural speech.